

Appl. No. : 10/529,623
Filed : March 30, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6 and 9 as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~. Please cancel Claims 2 and 10. Please add Claims 17-19.

1 (currently amended): An electrophotographic toner used for an image forming method that utilizes a heat-pressure type fuser equipped with a fusing member having a surface layer containing polybenzimidazole, said electrophotographic toner comprising at least a cycloolefin copolymer resin as a binder resin, wherein

said cycloolefin copolymer resin comprises a mixture of 0 to 75 percent by weight of a low molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of less than 15,000, 5 to 25 percent by weight of a medium molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of 15,000 to 100,000, and 20 to 95 percent by weight of a high molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of more than 100,000.

2 (canceled):

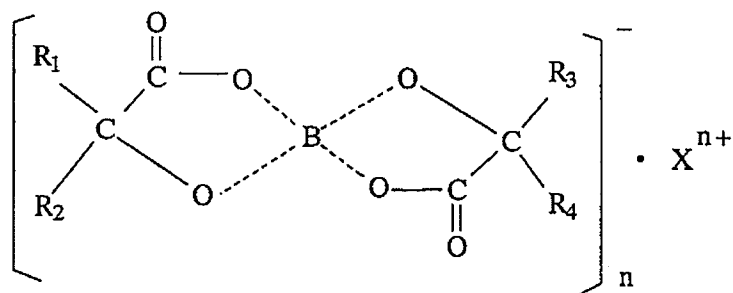
3 (original): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1, wherein said polybenzimidazole is a hydrophobic polybenzimidazole.

4 (original): An electrophotographic toner containing a cycloolefin copolymer resin as a binder resin, wherein said cycloolefin copolymer resin comprises a mixture of 0 to 75 percent by weight of a low molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of less than 15000, 5 to 25 percent by weight of a medium molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of 15000 to 100000, and 20 to 95 percent by weight of a high molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of more than 100000.

5 (original): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1 or 4, wherein the content of cycloolefin copolymer resin in the binder resin is 50 percent by weight or more.

6 (currently amended): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1 ~~or 4~~ or 3, which comprises a boron complex of the general formula below as a charge control agent:

Appl. No. : 10/529,623
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wherein R₁ and R₄ indicate hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups or substituted or non-substituted aromatic rings (including fused rings), while R₂ and R₃ indicate substituted or non-substituted aromatic rings (including fused rings). B indicates boron and Xⁿ⁺ indicates a cation, where n is either 1 or 2.

7 (original): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1 or 4, wherein the content of decalin in the toner contained as residual solvent in the cycloolefin copolymer resin is 500 ppm or less.

8 (original): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1 or 4, wherein the toner is a full-color toner.

9 (currently amended): An image forming method which comprises supplying a transfer paper with a toner image formed by an electrophotographic toner that comprises a cycloolefin copolymer resin as a binder resin, to a heat-pressure type fuser equipped with a fusing member having a polybenzimidazole-containing surface layer, thereby fusing said toner image, wherein said cycloolefin copolymer resin comprises a mixture of 0 to 75 percent by weight of a low molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of less than 15,000, 5 to 25 percent by weight of a medium molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of 15,000 to 100,000, and 20 to 95 percent by weight of a high molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of more than 100,000, and wherein the content of cycloolefin copolymer resin in the binder ranges from 50 percent by weight to 100 percent by weight.

10 (canceled):

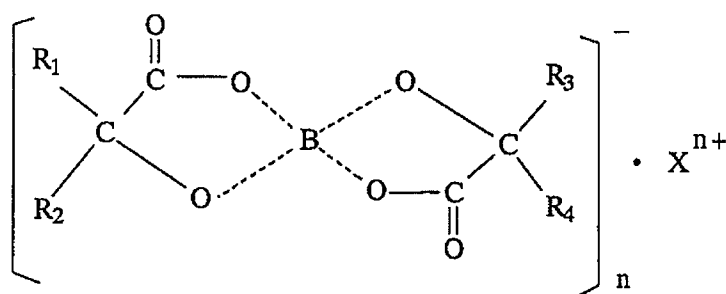
11 (original): The image forming method as described in Claim 9, wherein said polybenzimidazole is a hydrophobic polybenzimidazole.

Appl. No. : 10/529,623
Filed : March 30, 2005

12 (original): An image forming method which comprises supplying a transfer paper with a toner image formed by an electrophotographic toner that comprises, as a binder resin, a cycloolefin copolymer resin comprising a mixture of 0 to 75 percent by weight of a low molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of less than 15000, 5 to 25 percent by weight of a medium molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of 15000 to 100000, and 20 to 95 percent by weight of a high molecular weight component having a weight-average molecular weight of more than 100000, to a heat-pressure type fuser, thereby fusing said toner image.

13 (original): The image forming method as described in Claim 9 or 12, wherein the content of said cycloolefin copolymer resin in the toner is 50 percent by weight or more.

14 (original): The image forming method as described in Claim 9 or 12, wherein the toner comprises a boron complex of the general formula below as charge control agents:



wherein, R₁ and R₄ indicate hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups or substituted or non-substituted aromatic rings (including fused rings), while R₂ and R₃ indicate substituted or non-substituted aromatic rings (including fused rings). B indicates boron and Xⁿ⁺ indicates a cation, where n is either 1 or 2.

15 (original): The image forming method as described in Claim 9 or 12, wherein the content of decalin in the toner contained as residual solvent in the cycloolefin copolymer resin is 500 ppm or less.

16 (original): The image forming method as described in Claim 9 or 12, wherein the toner is a full-color toner.

Appl. No. : **10/529,623**
Filed : **March 30, 2005**

17 (new): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 1 or 4 further comprising a coloring agent.

18 (new): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 17 further comprising a release agent.

19 (new): The electrophotographic toner as described in Claim 18 wherein the release agent is a wax.